

REMARKS

The Examiner, under 35 U.S.C. 121, has required restriction to one of the following species:

1. A system with a workpiece electrode arrangement comprising carbon content; and
2. A system with a workpiece electrode arrangement having no carbon content.

The Examiner indicated that claims 57-75 belong to species 1, claims 76-82 belong to species 2, and that the species are independent because they are mutually exclusive. Consequently, the Examiner maintained, there are no generic claims.

Election of Species to be Examined

Applicant elects the invention of species 2, i.e., a system with a workpiece electrode arrangement having no carbon content. Election is made with traverse, in that the claims identified by the Examiner as belonging to species 1 do not recite a system with a workpiece electrode arrangement comprising, or necessarily comprising, carbon content. Consequently, the identified species are not mutually exclusively with regard to the workpiece electrode arrangement, as articulated by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration. While continuing to traverse the species election requirement, in order to ensure completeness of this response, the Applicant hereby elects species 2 under traverse.

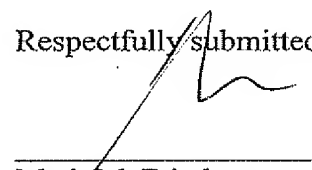
Identification of the Claims Encompassing the Elected Species

Claim 57 is readable on the elected species because it does not identify the workpiece electrode arrangement as having carbon. Furthermore, none of dependent claims 58 through 75 recite that the workpiece electrode arrangement necessarily contains carbon. Claim 76 and independent claims 77 through 82, which follow, do recite a workpiece electrode having substantially no carbon content.

Thus, upon careful review of the instant claims, and in view of the present election requirement, the claims which are either generic or which read on the elected species are claims 57-82.

Applicant believes that the application is now ready for substantive examination and looks forward to receiving the Examiner's findings.

Respectfully submitted,



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